

GET US OUT OF THIS MESS



Downcast Graham Braddock

Last year at this time we were riding high.

Now we don't know how we're going to survive.

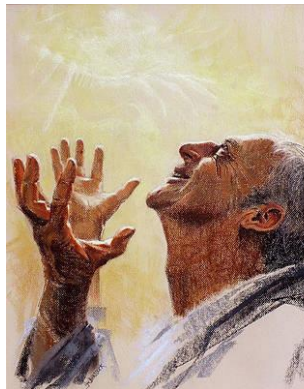
Lord, where are you?

***How long, O LORD? Wilt thou forget me forever?
How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?***

***Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him";
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.***

***But I have trusted in thy steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.
I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.***

Psalm 13



Yet Will I Praise Him

The leaders we trusted have let us down.

The faith that once sustained us has begun to falter.

Lord, where are you?

**Out of the depths I cry to thee, O LORD!
Lord, hear my voice!
Let thy ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
If thou, O LORD, shouldst mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee,
that thou mayest be feared.**

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the LORD
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

**O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.**

Psalm 130

So, like the widow pestering the Unjust Judge, we cry out, and never give up.

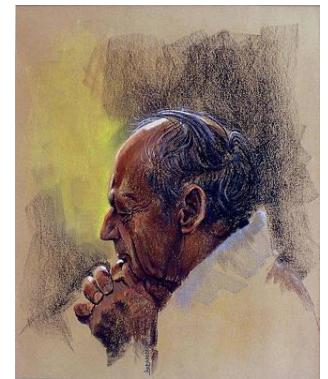
We storm the gates of heaven.

We keep knocking on our Father's door.

We never quit.

“And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily!”

Luke 18



Hope in God

Prayer: Compassionate, listening Lord, we cry to you to pull us out of the depths of our despair, to get us out this mess that entangles our souls, that wrenches our hearts. We cry out in the midst of our need and our anxiety. We feel weak and unworthy. Clothe us in your worthiness as we place our quivering trust in you and your mercy. We remember and are thankful for all the tender loving care you have bestowed on our lives, for your mercy. In the midst of our trials may our hearts be in awe of you, seek you, and know that we can completely trust you. Release us from dwelling on and nursing our wounds. Help us to turn to you, where we will find true healing and redemption, and instead of being overwhelmed by despair, we can be overwhelmed by your unfailing love.

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WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN